

What is claimed:

5 1. A device for gripping an exterior of a cervical canal to press the cervical canal inwardly against a tubular portion of a hysteroscope instrument inserted through the cervical canal to resist backflow of fluid or gas used as a distension media within a uterus from flowing out of the cervical canal during the use of the hysteroscope instrument, the device comprising:

10 a pair of pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with curved clamping tips and rearward end portions with hand-grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms, said curved clamping tips adapted to receive the cervical canal therebetween and grip the exterior of the cervical canal to press the cervical canal inwardly against the tubular portion of the hysteroscope instrument.

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2. The device according to claim 1 wherein said curved clamping tips are aligned at an angle relative to said hand-grips.

20 3. The device according to claim 2 wherein said hand-grips are approximately perpendicular to said end portion.

25 4. The device according to claim 2 wherein said angle is approximately between 45 degrees and 135 degrees.

5. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a locking device connected to said cross arms wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in a closed position.

30 6. The locking device according to claim 5 wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in a closed profile incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said arms.

7. The device according to claim 1 wherein said curved clamping tips define generally a circular area.

8. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a material covering said 5 curved clamping tips.

9. The device according to claim 8 wherein said material is made of an elastomeric material.

10 10. The material according to claim 8 wherein said material is replaceable.

11. A method of preventing fluid or gas from flowing out of a cervical canal from a uterus during the use of a hysteroscope instrument, the method comprising the steps of: inserting the hysteroscope instrument into the cervical canal of the uterus;

15 positioning a device to grip exterior of the cervical canal wherein said device comprises a pair of pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with curved clamping tips and rearward end portions with hand-grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms, said curved clamping tips adapted to 20 receive the cervical canal therebetween; and

gripping the exterior of the cervical canal with said curved clamping tips to press the cervical canal inwardly against a tubular portion of the hysteroscope instrument for preventing the fluid or gas from the uterus from flowing out of the cervical canal during the use of said hysteroscope instrument.

25 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said curved clamping tips are approximately perpendicular to said hand-grips.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said device further comprises an elastomeric 30 material covering said curved clamping tips.

14. A device for gripping an exterior of a cervical canal to press the cervical canal inwardly against a tubular portion of a hysteroscope instrument inserted through the cervical canal to resist backflow of fluid or gas used as a distension media within a uterus from flowing out of the cervical canal during the use of the hysteroscope instrument, the
5 device comprising:

a flexible band having a forward end portion with a moveable end and a rearward end portion with a fixed end, said moveable end adapted to receive the cervical canal therebetween and grip the exterior of the cervical canal to press the cervical canal inwardly against the tubular portion of the hysteroscope instrument.

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15. The device according to claim 14 wherein said moveable end is approximately perpendicular to said fixed end.

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16. The device according to claim 14 further comprising an adjustment means connected to said fixed end wherein said adjustment means holds said moveable end in a fixed position.

17. The device according to claim 14 wherein said flexible band is covered with a shield.

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18. The device of claim 14 wherein said device is made of an elastomeric material.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein said device is disposable.

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20. A method of preventing fluid or gas from flowing out of a cervical canal from a uterus during the use of a hysteroscope instrument, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a device to grip exterior of the cervical canal wherein said device comprises a flexible band having a forward end portion with a moveable end and a rearward end portion with a fixed end, said moveable end adapted to receive the cervical canal therebetween;

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inserting the hysteroscope instrument into the cervical canal of the uterus; and

gripping the exterior of the cervical canal with said moveable end to press the cervical canal inwardly against a tubular portion of the hysteroscope instrument for preventing the fluid or gas from the uterus from flowing out of the cervical canal during the use of said hysteroscope instrument.

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21. The method according to claim 20 wherein said device further comprises an adjustment means connected to said fixed end.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said adjustment means holds said moveable end

10 in a fixed position.

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